iron units with a capacity of 7.39 lakh tonnes per annum are in different stages of execution presently.

There are only 3 gas-based plants in India, namely Essar Gujarat Ltd., Vikram Ispat Ltd. and Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd. and they require calibrated iron ore with Fe content of 65% and above.

Though NMDC had been considering development of Deposit 11-B as a joint venture project since 1991, the proposal could not fructify as the three major iron ore consuming companies, identified as potential joint venture partners, were agreeable to join in the joint venture only if they were the sole co-promoters with NMDC and the management rights vested in them.

The Steel Ministry examined the issues involved in May, 1994 and advised NMDC that the project may be developed as a joint venture with participation of one of the private companies operating or setting up a gas-based sponge iron plant in the country, who have already an assurance from NMDC to meet a substantial part of the plant's requirement for iron ore. The Government also suggested specific criteria to NMDC for selecttion of a joint venture partner.

The Board of Directors of NMDC constituted a sub-committee to select a joint venture partner on the basis of the criteria suggested by Ministry of Steel. The recommendations of the sub-committee, accepted by NMDC Board, are as follows:—

(i) To enter into joint venture with one of the following partners in the given order of preference:

(i) M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Limited.

(ii) M/. Essar Gujarat Limited.

(ii) To transfer a part of the lease of deposit 11-B held by NMDC (i.e. the area comprised in deposit 11—B) to the joint venture company after following the prescribed procedures.

(iii) To seek decision of Government regarding the consideration to be charged for transfer of the mining lease.

The Steel Ministry made an in-depth analysis of the recommendations received from NMDC and submitted a note to the Cabinet for consideration. As regards consideration to be charged for transfer of mining lease, it was felt that it would not be appropriate to treat it as a normal commercial transaction and realize the maximum consideration because this would render the final product costly and uncompetitive. Moreover, the transfer was proposed to a joint venture company in which NMDC itself is a partner. At the same time, the Steel Ministry felt that NMDC should not be put to any pecuniary loss and should be compensated for the actual expenditure that it had incurred on exploration, feasibility and other preliminary works. The Steel Ministry, hence proposed that the actual expenditure incurred as above, updated to current costs through an appropriate method to be determined by a recognised professional organisation such as the institute of Cost & Works Accountants of India (ICWAI), should be recovered from the joint venture partner.

The Cabinet, in their meeting on 30.5.95 accorded approval to development of Bailadila 11-B deposit as a joint venture. Based on this, approval was accorded to NMDC on 13.6.95 to form the joint venture company and take other consequential actions, The interests of the local people and trade unions have been safeguarded by advising NMDC to stipulate in the joint venture agreement that the joint venture company will recruit all skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers through the Local Employment Exchange except to the extent that such workers are not available with the Local Employment Exchange. The joint venture agreement has since been signed on 10.7.95.

News-item on Education Policy

***170. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:**
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in "Statesmen' of June 7, 1995 stating ""no worthwhile education policy and examination system had been

evolved in the country despite 40 years of marathon discussion";

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) the reasons for failure of our education policy and examination system in the country;

(d) the details of flaws observed by Government in school curriculum; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remove such flaws in school curriculum and examination system in the country and adopt a uniform education policy at all levels?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the report is incorrect. It has been ascertained that the Statement ascribed to the Hon'ble Minister in the Newspaper report was in fact not made by him at all.

(c) to (e) It is incorrect to state that Education Policy and the examination system has failed. The country has already taken major strides in extending quality education and devising schemes to deal with the diverse needs of skilled manpower. The objectivity of examinations is also being continuously upgraded. The curriculum framework and syllabi evolved by N.C.E.R.T for schools have been adopted and adapted by almost all States in the country. The effort of the Government is to ensure that the quality aspect is constantly kept in view.

Welfare of Fishermen

*171. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the measures taken by the Central Government for promoting the welfare of fishermen who are involved in promoting export of fisheries especially in Kerala and other Coastal regions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Welfare of Fishermen" with the following three components is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for the benefit of the fishermen:—

(i) Development of Model Fishermen Villages with the Objective to provide Houses, tubewells and community halls in selected villages;

(ii) Group Accident Insurance Scheme for Active Fishermen with the obejctive to provide insurance cover to fishermen actively engaged in fishing;

(iii) Saving-cum Relief for marine Fishermen with the objective to provide financial assistance to marine fishermen during lean fishery season.

The amount of Central assistance released for all the three components of the scheme during the last three years is given below:—

(i) Development of Model Fishermen Villages

Year	Amount (in lakhs)
1992-93	134.22
1993-94	334.38
1994-95	485.47

(ii) Group Accident Insurance

Year	Amount (in lakhs)
1992-93	36.88
1993-94	40.37
1994-95	45.77

(iii) Saving-cum Relief for Marine Fishermen

Year	Amount (in lakhs)
1992-93	669.70
1993-94	584.25
1994-95	724.40

विदेशी सहायता से चल रहे स्कूल

*172. प्रो. राम बक्ष सिंह वर्मा: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में विदेशी सहायता से चल रहे स्कूलों का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ख) क्या सरकार उन स्कूलों को अपने नियंत्रण में रखने का विचार रखती है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?